

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of old claims 2-5, the latter claims being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of old claims 11-15, the latter claims being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 16 has been amended such that it depends from claim 10. Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the confining element is moveable by rotation or translation. Reference to "rotation" or "translation" is discussed in the last two sentences in Paragraph [0051] of the present application. Claims 23 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 33 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 34 and 36, the latter claims being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is believed that no new subject matter has been added by the amendments submitted herein.

Claims 1, 6-10, 16-22, 25-33, 35 and 37-47 currently stand in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 22 and 33 are independent.

Preliminarily, Applicant wishes to state that all claim amendments submitted herein have been effected for the sole purpose of clarifying the scope of the present invention and have not been made in response to any particular objection raised by the Examiner.

In Paragraph 2 of the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 18, 20, 21 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) as being purportedly indefinite.

The rejection of claims 20 and 21 is believed to be moot in light of the amendments made to claim 10.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 7, 18 and 45. The "extraction system" is depicted in the present application in a number of ways. Specifically, with reference to Figure 1, the extraction system comprises elements 140 and 145. With reference to Figure 5, the extraction system comprises elements 240 and 245. With reference to Figure 10, the extraction system comprises a combination of elements 340, 345 and the handle shown at the other end of the module (not give a reference numeral). Accordingly, Applicant believes that the term "extraction system" would be clearly understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection of claims 7, 18, 20, 21 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph).

The prior art rejections set out in Paragraphs 4-7 of the outstanding Official Action are believed to be moot since, in each case, the independent claim included in the prior art rejection has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of at least one non-rejected claim. The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the prior art rejections set out in Paragraphs 4-7 of the outstanding Official Action.

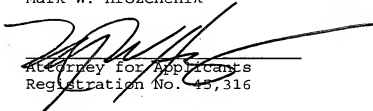
The prior art rejections set out in Paragraphs 9 and 10 of the outstanding Official Action are believed to be moot since the subject claims are dependent claims that refer to independent claims that are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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